



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

November 05, 2004

Anna Bradford
Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

11/16/04 RDB received
9/17/04
69FR 56104
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Dear Ms. Bradford:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed National Enrichment Facility in Lea County, New Mexico. The proposed facility would produce enriched uranium-235 up to 5 weight percent by the gas centrifuge process with a production of 3 million separate work units per year.

The DEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, reasonable alternatives and no action. The DEIS describes the environmental effects and describes the environmental monitoring program and mitigation measures. The proposed action would contribute to the attainment of the national security energy policy directives. Overall impacts both cumulative and direct have been evaluated as having a small impact on the environment. Most impacts are avoided and/or significantly reduced through site selection and mitigation.

EPA classified your DEIS and proposed action as "LO," i.e., EPA has "Lack of Objections". Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the supplemental information. We request that you send our office one (1) copy of the FEIS at the same time that it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities (2251A), EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20044.

Sincerely yours,

Michael P. Jansky, P.E.
Michael P. Jansky, P.E.
Regional EIS Coordinator

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(AH-01)
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